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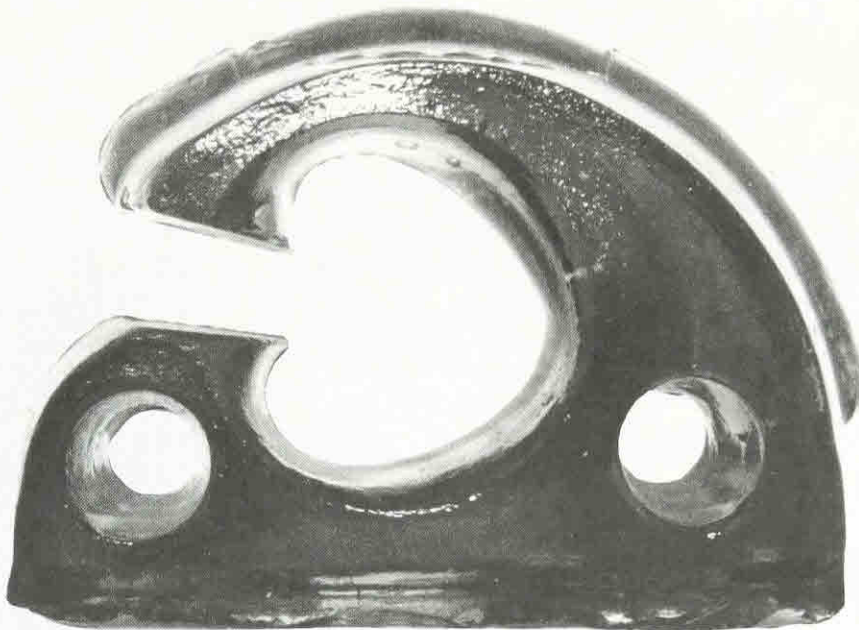
Non-Pintype Glass Insulators

Two classic insulators styles which have been researched, assigned CD numbers and reside in private collections are the Cutter and Garrity patents.

"**Scott C. Cutter**, ex-Mayor of Oswego, [Illinois] is one of the popular men of Kendall County, one whom his fellow townsmen are proud to honor, as one of the most progressive and public-spirited citizens of this locality. He was born in Oswego Township, November 5, 1874, a son of Henry C. and Mary (Fox) Cutter." So wrote Newton Bateman and Paul Selby, editors of *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Kendall County, Vol. II*, Chicago, Munsell Publishing Company, 1914.

Scott C. Cutter was issued a patent on April 26, 1904 for an insulator "which would support wires running through trees and [used] where it may be impossible or undesirable to set poles, also where a plurality of wires run through a tree and it is desired to prevent such wires from crossing or touching each other during a wind."

The glass Cutter "tree insulators" had two holes through the belly of the insulator through which a wire or rope could be passed in order to secure the



CD 1038

Cutter was educated at Oswego High School and graduated with a degree in pharmaceutical chemistry from Northwestern University in 1905. He established himself in business with the purchase of the W.T. Putt drug store in Oswego. He was active in village politics and the Republican party. Cutter was elected Oswego's mayor twice and "Oswego never had so efficient an executive officer, and under his wise, businesslike administration, many important civic improvements were made, and others started. Mr. Cutter is a man of education, and wide experience, and deeply imbued with a love for his native country."

insulator to a tree limb. The original patent indicated that the insulator would also have two lugs with holes (13. and 14. on Figure 4.) on the base in order for a nail or screw to fasten the insulator to a tree. However, there have been no glass insulators found that were manufactured with the fastening lugs.

On August 13, 1924, Cutter was issued a second patent in which he stated "It is the practice to secure these insulators to a tree trunk or limb by means of girdling the trunk or limb, but there is frequently objection to this girdling, and the primary object of my present invention is to provide means for securing the

insulator to the trunk or limb without girdling it." The invention was for a bracket to be used in conjunction with a tree insulator made of porcelain.

To our knowledge, the glass Cutter insulator was never used with the bracket and was installed by girdling the limb or trunk of the tree with a wire or rope. The glass Cutter is also found with two different bases. One is a ribbed bottom which was described in the 1904 patent as a means of providing traction during the installation of the unit. The other base is referred to as a "coffin" bottom and has a rectangular depression in the base. This style may have been designed to receive a bracket, however, there is no documented evidence for this theory.

The son of Scott C. Cutter became an employee of the Edison Electric Company of Illinois and it may have been his father's interest in electricity that led him into the electrical profession. Several years ago a mold for the porcelain Cutter tree insulator was recovered out of the Cutter family home in Oswego. To date, no mold for the glass style has been found.

CD 1038 is embossed on the top of the insulator in a two inch diameter slug. It reads: "CUTTER APRIL 26, 04". Some units have a taller base and can measure from 1/2" to 1" from the tie holes to the base. Most units are a dark aqua, but they have also been found in emerald green.

No. 758,175.

PATENTED APR. 26, 1904.

S. C. CUTTER.
INSULATOR.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 11, 1903.

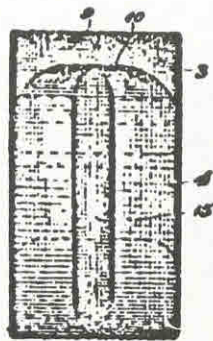


Fig. 1.

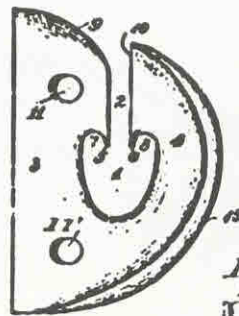


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

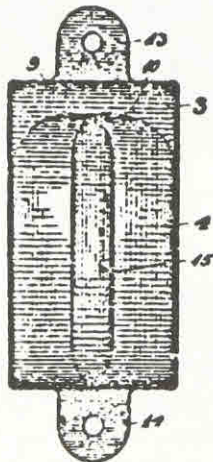
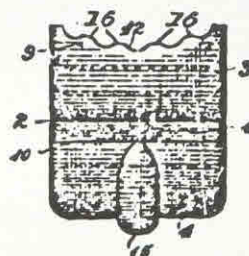


Fig. 5.

Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
Samuel W. Novander.
Charles J. Schmidt.

Inventor
Scott C. Cutter
By Charles A. Brown
Attorney

John Garity of East Birmingham, Pennsylvania, was issued a patent on January 3, 1871. In his patent he stated "The insulator is made of solid glass by being pressed in a mold having suitable cavities, in any of the ways known to the art.

The part which is to be inserted into the telegraph pole, cross-bar, or other support for the wires, is of a tapering cylindrical form, as shown at *a*.

On this form, at the same time and in the same way the rest is formed, a screw-thread *a'*, of any desired slope or angle of thread.

The head *b* is grooved, as at *b'*, for convenience in attaching the telegraph wire, and is made with faces of other than circular form, as shown in Fig. 1, for ease in screwing the pin *a* into the telegraph-pole or other support.

With this form of insulator head an ordinary wrench, of form to correspond, is used. Instead of a head of polygonal form, as in Fig. 1, with which a wrench

is used, a head of circular form may be used, as shown in Fig. 2, but in the latter case a pin or lug, *c*, should be made on the circular head *b*, so as to admit of the screwing in of the pin *a* by the use of an ordinary spanner or suitable form.

To secure the necessary strength at the base of the head, which commonly is the weakest point, I make the pin *a* with a gradual taper from the base of the head to or toward the point, any desired distance, the object being to get a larger body of glass in the head-end of the pin *a*.

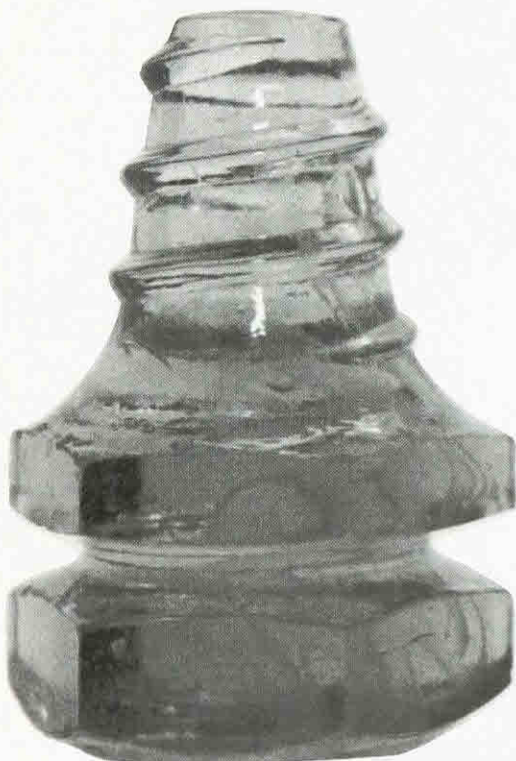
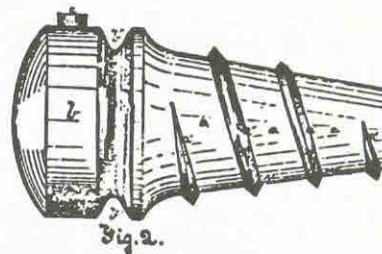
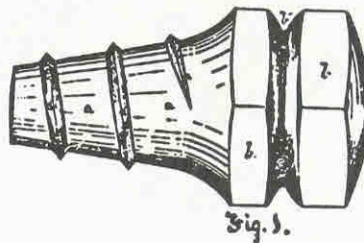
A solid glass insulator of the form described I have found to possess sufficient strength at all points for practical use, while it is simple in its construction, is made at small cost, and is easily applied.

To date only one **CD 1040** specimen of the Garity patent has been located. It has the hexagonal head as shown in Fig. 1. of the patent. It is not embossed and is a light aqua color.

J. GARITY.
GLASS TELEGRAPH INSULATOR.

No. 110,645.

Patented Jan. 3, 1871.



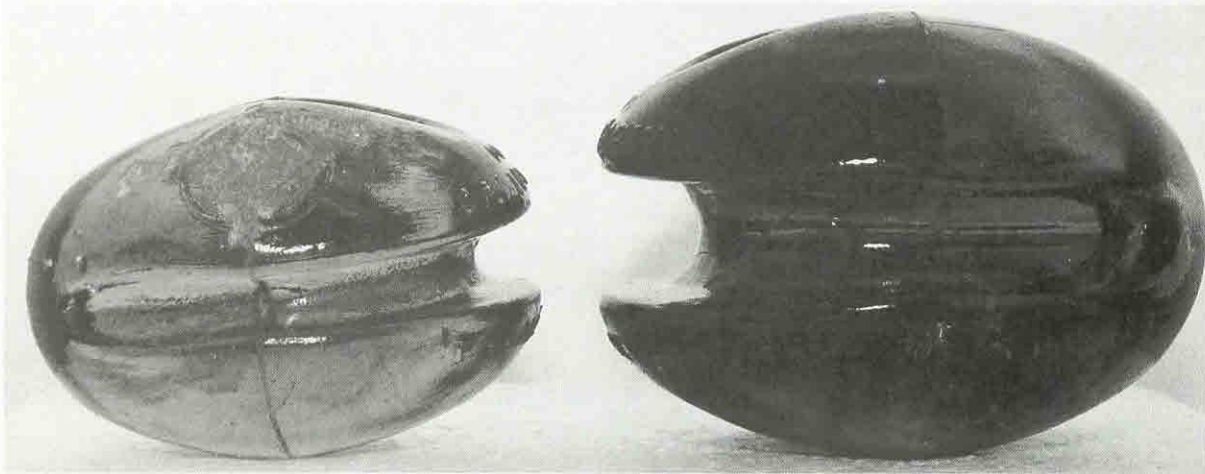
CD 1040

Witnesses:

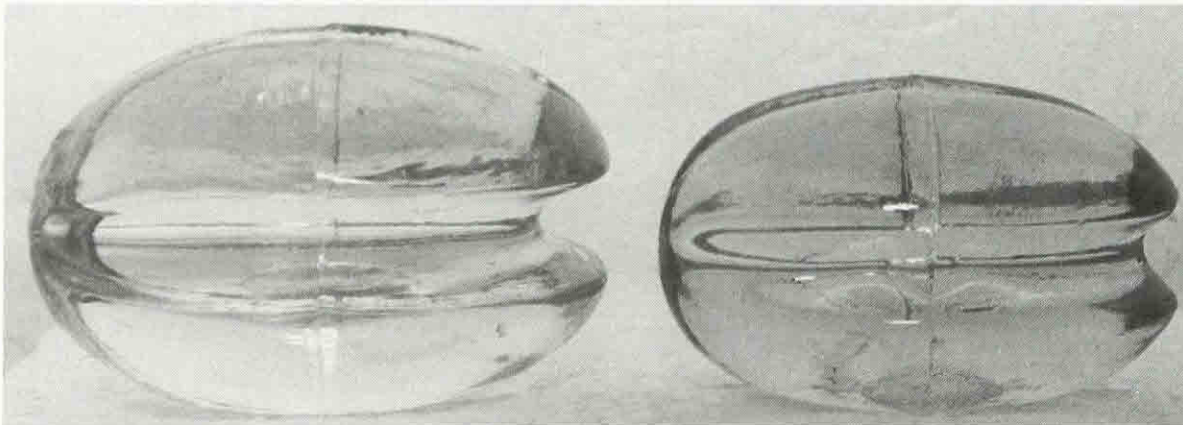
R. C. Marshall
Shoemaker

Inventor:
John Garity,
by Bakewell Christy
his atty.

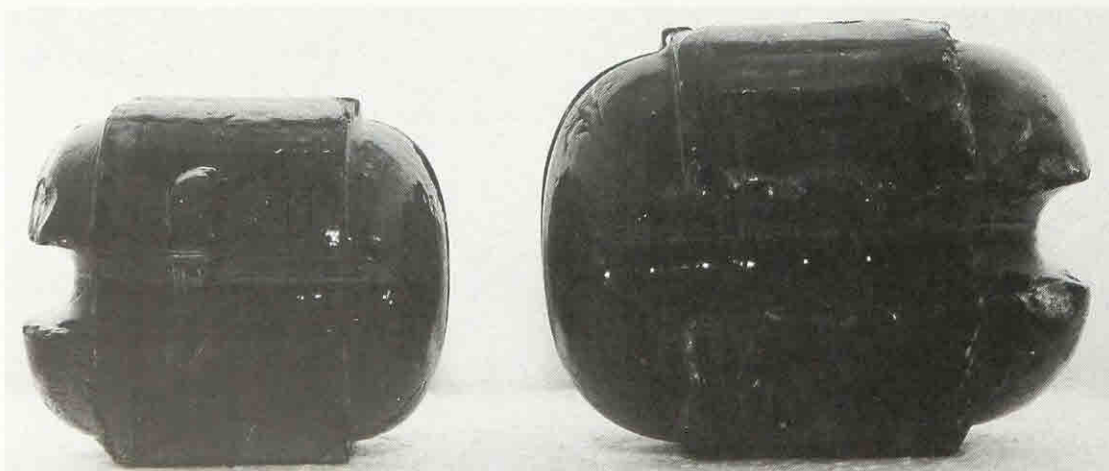
Glass Strain Insulators



Pictured are two sizes of California glass guy wire strain insulators, embossed "CALIFORNIA" above the open lip and "PAT APL'D FOR" below the lip. (Courtesy of Mike Guthrie collection; photograph by John McDougald)



These are two sizes of unembossed glass guy wire strain insulators. The manufacturer is unattributed. (Courtesy of Bill Heitkotter collection; photograph by John McDougald)



These styles are often referred to as "Johnny Balls" and are also guy wire strains. The manufacture of many of these insulators has been attributed to both Brookfield Glass Company and Hemingray Glass Company. (Courtesy of Don Fiene collection; photograph by John McDougald)

